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FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY:

**WEED & SEED SLOAN AWARD OF VALOR
PRESENTED POSTHUMOUSLY TO
OFFICER TIMOTHY "JAKE" LAIRD**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney, Southern District of Indiana, announced that the Sloan Award of Valor was presented posthumously to Indianapolis Police Officer Timothy "Jake" Laird, at a ceremony held last evening at a South District Task Force meeting of the Indianapolis Police Department. Deputy Chief Tim Martin, many IPD officers and community members were in attendance, as well as Debbie and Mike Laird, Officer Laird's parents.

The Weed and Seed Sloan Award of Valor honors local law enforcement officers and community leaders whose legacies in Weed and Seed sites have affected designated neighborhoods across the country. The Sloan Award of Valor is presented every 2 years at the Community Capacity Development Office's Law Enforcement Conference. Only 4 awards were presented this year. The honor is given posthumously to those officers who gave of themselves just as Officer Nicholas Sloan did. On January 30, 2004, Officer Sloan of Saint

Louis, Missouri, was killed in the line of duty as he tried to protect his community. Officer Sloan had always done extraordinary work in the community, particularly with the local Weed and Seed site. Officer Jake Laird gave the ultimate sacrifice on August 18, 2004, when he was killed in the line of duty defending the citizens of the Weed & Seed Neighborhood of SUMO (Southeast Umbrella Organization).

Officer Timothy “ Jake” Laird, a patrol officer in the Indianapolis Police Department’ s South District, was well-respected and well-liked by coworkers and community residents alike. He loved the community he served, and he died while working to make it a safer place to live.

Officer Laird was killed on August 18, 2004, when he responded to numerous 911 calls about gunfire on the south side of Indianapolis. The shooter was a troubled man who suffered from schizophrenia and had not been taking his prescribed medication. In addition to killing Officer Laird, the suspect wounded several officers during his shooting spree, which led the Indiana State Senate to later pass a measure designed to keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of mentally ill individuals. The Timothy “ Jake” Laird Bill (House Bill 1776) allows law enforcement officers to seize a firearm possessed by an individual whom the officer reasonably believes to be dangerous.

Officer Laird’ s badge and car number were retired after his death, and then Chief of Police Jerry Barker posthumously awarded him the Indianapolis Police Department’ s Medal of Honor and Purple Heart. Officer Laird’ s funeral was followed by a procession of more than 500 squad cars in a line that extended more than 7 miles, and hundreds of well-wishers

gathered along the route. At the grave site, more than 700 uniformed law enforcement officers and 150 family members paid their final respects in honor of his legacy.

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